

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1623 without my signature.

This bill seeks to impose a new \$5 tax on all cars in the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, and Sacramento does so without a two-thirds vote of the people. While the goal of the program to increase funds to relieve traffic congestion is a worthy proposal to consider, I do not believe these fees should continue to be added without the approval from the people upon whom the fee is imposed.

In this year's budget, I proposed the full funding of Proposition 42 for the first time since its passage in 2002. The additional \$1.3 billion from Proposition 42 is just a fraction of the funds needed to relieve California's congested freeways and improve our roadways. Finding new funds for California's fractured infrastructure is a top priority; however, this piecemeal approach that does not allow for a vote of the people is not the right way to accomplish the goal.

For these reasons, I cannot support this measure.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger